

CSI Idol auditions
Singing hopefuls croon their way into Idol finals.
Page 2

SPOKE

A LEARNING NEWSROOM FOR JOURNALISM STUDENTS



Bond, James Bond
Daniel Craig is back in Quantum of Solace.
Page 10

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008

CONESTOGA COLLEGE, KITCHENER, ONT.

WWW.CONESTOGAC.ON.CA/SPOKE

40TH YEAR — NO. 24

GIRL TALK ROCKS THE LAPTOP



PHOTO BY KEVIN O'BRIEN

Gregg Gillis, a.k.a. Girl Talk, performs to a sold-out crowd at the Kool Haus in Toronto Nov. 12. Armed with only a laptop, the Pittsburgh-based Gillis cuts and pastes parts of other artists' songs to create his own music. For story and more photos, see Page 7.

Retail program shops for students

By STACIE RITCHIE

Conestoga College will soon be offering a new retail program.

Starting in January, an eight-month retail operations management post-graduate program will be available in both full- and part-time formats for those aspiring to become business leaders in the Canadian retail industry.

The program is designed to help develop strong critical thinking skills as well as an understanding of the complexities of how the retail industry works.

Courses will cover the principles of retail management, customer service, strategies, innovations in retailing, marketing and sales, visual merchandising, financial planning, information systems and logistics and supply chain management.

Dea Watson, a marketing professor at Conestoga who has been instrumental in designing the program, believes the material covered

will be beneficial to both students and employers.

"Many retailers are challenged with the speed of increased levels of competition, the growth of the Internet, changes in technology and sophisticated consumers who are looking for better value together with higher quality service," said Watson.

"

Retailers require industry leaders with the necessary skills.

— Dea Watson

"

"As a result, retailers require industry leaders with the necessary skills to address and resolve these challenges."

Those applying for the program must have a college diploma, university degree or equivalent work experience.

OH, SNOW! WINTER IS BACK



PHOTO BY HEATHER MUIR

Trees around the Conestoga College pond glisten with snow after the season's first big snowfall. For more chilly pics, see Page 12.

CSI keeping things green

Think Recycle program salvages used cellphones and batteries

By PATRICK LANSBERGEN

Despite the wintery weather, CSI is keeping it green with the Think Recycle initiative.

So far, an average of seven to 13 kilograms of batteries, cellphones and printer cartridges have been collected each month.

The Think Recycle program was created by Greentec, a Cambridge company focused on the reuse of products like cellphones and printer cartridges.

The program began at Conestoga in June 2008, and was started by CSI staff member Nadia Hundlul.

"The program is going surprisingly well. It's not just students participating, it's staff and family members too," said Hundlul.

Located in the CSI self-serve area are a set of shelves and a box where used items can be dropped off. CSI receives money for the amount and quality of submitted items.

"The boxes get heavy, I mean, I'm strong and I have a tough time lifting them," said Tara Herriot, a CSI staff member.

Greentec also donates one tree to either the Tree Canada Foundation or American Forests for every 12 qualifying cartridges or cellphones that Conestoga supplies.

According to a press release, the program has been responsible for planting over 31,000 trees to date.

There are over 20,000 participants registered in the Think Recycle program, and more than 1.85 million cartridges and cellphones have been collected so far.

Any qualifying items may be brought to the CSI self-serve area in Room 2A108.

Now deep thoughts ... with Conestoga College

Random questions answered by random students
What do you want for Christmas
this year?



"I want a car. A Lexus!"

Lindsay Barbosa,
first-year
legal office administration

"A trip to Brazil."

Sonia Barbosa,
first-year
business accounting



"My two front teeth."

Jarod Morgan,
third-year
accounting

"I want a camera so I can
take pictures and document
college."

Nicki Petrie,
first-year
police foundations



"A paid vacation,
somewhere warm!"

**Jessica
Bloetjes,**
first-year
police foundations

"Money for rent."

Jerica Brown,
first-year
pre-health services



Smile Conestoga, you could be our next respondent!

CSI Idol finalists chosen

By MANDI CARTWRIGHT

Powerful vocals echoed off the walls as students gave it their all. After, the outcome of their performances was decided.

CSI Idol finalists endured a long auditioning process in Conestoga Students Inc.'s boardroom Nov. 10 to 13.

Finalists, which included Stacy Crown, Lucy Konialian, Katherine Laguna, Julia Pilgrim, Brandon Ross, Janessa Streeter and Karen Verhoeve, will perform live in the Sanctuary on Nov. 27. This time they will be able to have music in the background, though the music must not contain vocals. They are also able to use musical instruments if they feel so inclined.

The judging panel at the CSI Idol auditions consisted of CSI president, Sheena Sonser, Christopher Graves, CSI general manager, and Bert Last, a technologist in the LRC's audio/visual services. Some of the things contestants were judged on were their performance, stage presence and song choice.

"About nine people have auditioned, which is typical," Graves said.

Pilgrim, a first-year office

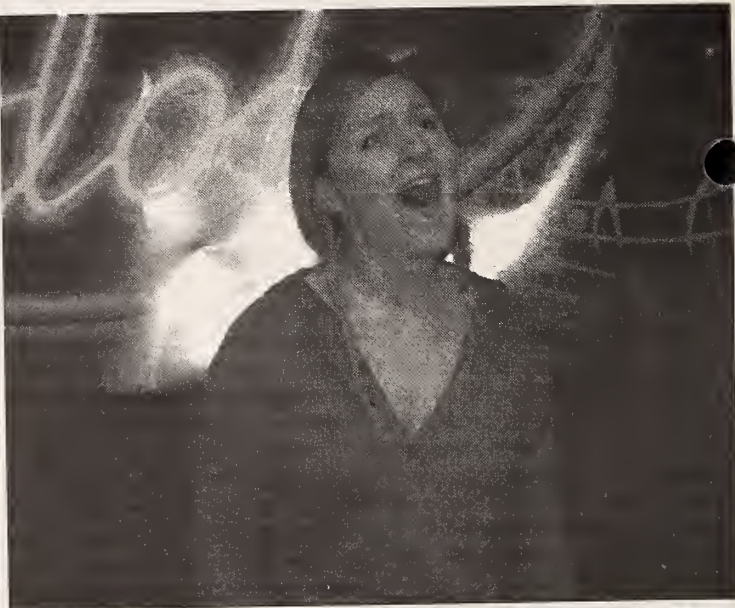


PHOTO BY ADAM RUSSELL

Lucy Konialian, a first-year advertising student, belts out a tune at CSI Idol's closed auditions on Nov. 13. Konialian advanced to the finals after her performance.

administration executive student and CSI Idol finalist, confided she had tried out for Canadian Idol a couple of years ago but was sent home after the first audition. Pilgrim admitted she was nervous during the CSI Idol auditions, though it did not show as her powerful rendition of Open Arms by Mariah Carey echoed throughout the

boardroom.

"I think the song shows off my range, and I'm comfortable singing it," she said.

The winner chosen out of these seven finalists will go on to perform in the finals at York University in Toronto, and will receive a prize pack containing a variety of items geared toward a singer's needs.

CSI C

RES

FOOD

DRIVE

The

GREATEST

gift is

GIVING

Drop off your non-perishable

food to the CSI Self Serve

Area, room 2A108

NOV 17TH - DEC 15TH

Hot buys for the holidays

By DAVID SMITH

Christmas is less than five weeks away, and during the next four weeks (or five, if you're more apt to procrastinate), shopping centres and retailers across Waterloo Region will be expecting some of the busiest days of the year. If you are stuck for ideas, the following might help in your travels. This year, popular items include a masked, caped crusader, Muggles, wizards and witches, some Rejects and FOB's, and an epic struggle against hordes of swarming zombies — and then there's the much sought-after gifts.

The Dark Knight sees its way onto Blu-Ray and DVD Dec. 9. The sequel to the 2005 Batman Begins, The Dark Knight has star Christian Bale reprising his role of Batman/Bruce Wayne in his ongoing battle with crime in Gotham City. With the aid of

the familiar Lt. Jim Gordon and newly introduced District Attorney Harvey Dent, played by Gary Oldman and Aaron Eckhart respectively, Batman attempts to remove organized crime in the fictional city indefinitely.

The three find themselves victims of the Batman series mastermind, The Joker, played by Heath Ledger. Forcing Gotham into depravity, The Joker pushes Batman to the edge of madness, taking personal matters into his own hands.

Also returning from Batman Begins are Michael Caine as Alfred and Morgan Freeman as Lucius Fox.

Harry Potter fans worldwide will have cause for excitement, as series author J.K. Rowling releases The Tales of Beedle the Bard on Dec. 4. Offering the same magic and fantasy available through the Harry Potter series, each tale in the novel introduces morals suit-

able for readers of all ages: the importance of preparation for days of necessity, how greed often overreaches itself and the magic that sits deep in our hearts.

The novel also introduces an expansive commentary by Professor Dumbledore of Harry Potter fame, who adds his unique vision to the tales, incorporating Muggles and Wizards into the context of the novel, giving Potter fans an essential addition to their already extensive libraries.

Stillwater, Okla. natives Tyson Ritter and Nick Wheeler release their latest album on Dec. 16. Better known as All American Rejects, the lead vocalist and lead guitarist respectively, joined with Mike Kennerty and Chris Gaylor, have been rocking the sound waves since 2002 with their breakthrough debut album The All American Rejects. The highly anticipated When the World Comes

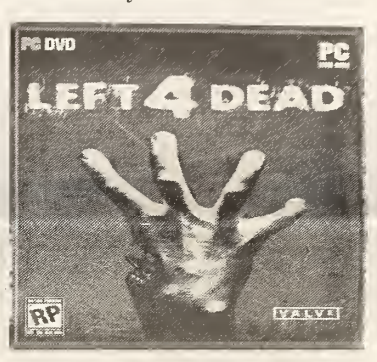
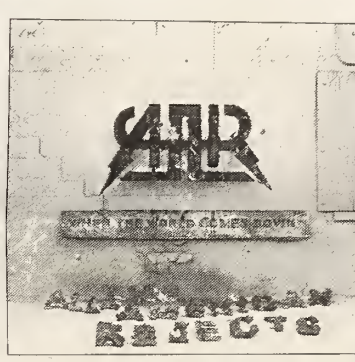
Down will be the artists' third studio album, following their sophomore release Move Along which placed the band into one of the top pop rock bands, going double platinum in the U.S. by the RIAA. Their latest single Gives You Hell is available for purchase in iTunes.

Fall Out Boy will be releasing their fifth studio album, Folie à Deux, on the very same day as AAR's When the World Comes Down, giving the Illinois band some fierce competition.

The new album will feature artists such as Elvis Costello, Kanye West, Pharrell and everyone's favourite 'can-I-spin-some-ish-on-your-album-too', Lil' Wayne. The album was originally set to be released on Nov. 4, the same date as the U.S. presidential election, but the concern over the planned election day tie-in pushed the album to its final release date of Dec. 16.

For the video game aficionados, Valve and Turtle Rock Studios will be releasing Left 4 Dead. Available for Xbox 360 and PC, the modern day survival-horror game introduces four "survivors" in an intense fight against a city populated by disfigured, psychopathic zombies, similar to those seen in the film 28 Days Later. Not your typical, slow-witted droolers seen dragging their limbs across the pavement, these virulent creatures run with frightening speed, leaping from rooftops and attacking in massive hordes.

The game places strong emphasis on the "co-operative" aspect of play, letting four people join up together online and work together as a team. For those with a lack of friends, three computer-controlled survivors will join you on your escape. The running and screaming started on Nov. 17, and will continue long through the holiday season.



INTERNET PHOTOS

Those who are stuck for gift ideas should put these crowd-pleasers on their shopping list. From left, The Dark Knight; J. K. Rowling's The Tales of Beedle the Bard; Fall Out Boy's Folie à Deux; All American Rejects When the World Comes Down; Left 4 Dead, available for PC or Xbox.

Budgeting a big part of student life

By BLAIR POLLOCK

Jingle bells will soon be ringing, but the wallet may be already singing the blues.

With Christmas just around the corner, a student's financial budget becomes more scrutinized.

It's the time of year when students in post-secondary education find themselves looking closely at their financial situation. Whatever money had been stockpiled during the summer months is now depleting after groceries, rent, the occasional night on the town and, of course, fees for books, tuition and other school items.

"I think for me, saving money that I earned during the summer was very key," said first-year manufacturing student Ben Larsen. "You never know what can happen during the school year though, so I hope there will be enough for a rainy day where I really need money."

To avoid those rainy days, pinching pennies now may be

a good idea. Keeping track of everything you spend is usually an eye-opening experience, showing exactly how much money is being frivolously thrown away.

"Money is definitely starting to get a little tighter. Now that I have to start buying Christmas presents soon, I'm not too sure how much will be left over for the next semester," said first-year bachelor of arts and science student Laura Bennett. "It would probably be in my best interest to start saving money I earn and keep track of how much I spend."

Simple things like cutting out coupons, splitting on paying for items with others and making some sacrifices by not heading out to the bar as often can put you back in the driver's seat when it comes to financial stability this winter.

By saving money and keeping your wallet thick, you'll be able to buy those perfect gifts for your friends and family this holiday season.



PHOTO BY BLAIR POLLOCK

Chris Irwin, a first-year marketing student, looks over his expenses from the past two months to try and figure out how he can save money.

Think of those less fortunate

Anyone who has ventured outside since Nov. 1 has probably noticed something is up. Saying goodbye to Halloween and flipping our calendar pages to November always signals a barrage of evergreen wreaths and an explosion of tired carols.

The Christmas season, which seems to arrive earlier and earlier every year, is upon us.

It certainly isn't difficult to grow weary of red and green decorations and forced holiday cheer, especially for students. The weeks leading up to Christmas holidays are among the busiest of the academic year, whirling past in a frenzy of essays and exams. The anxiousness – or for some, dread – that accompanies the annual return to one's hometown and family home can leave some college students feeling less than merry. Add to this the pressure of finding and buying perfect gifts while sticking to a limited budget, and the Christmas season can quickly turn into a garland-trimmed nightmare.

Yet for some of the struggling members of our community, having the above worries could be considered a luxury. For some, being able to afford food and adequately provide family care will take priority over more superficial shopping concerns.

This Christmas, shift your focus from personal yuletide stress and plan to make someone else's holiday season a little brighter.

As you draw up a list of gift recipients, leave room in your budget to donate a new toy or warm clothing to a local child in need. Churches and shelters often run programs designed to match gift donors to families. Conestoga Students Inc. is also getting into the spirit with their annual Christmas Wish Tree program. Conestoga students can visit the CSI office to pick up a card with a Christmas gift wish on it. Gifts can be purchased and returned to the CSI office.

For those who find themselves too cash-strapped to contribute financially, consider donating your time. Food banks are often in need of extra hands to co-ordinate meal programs, ranging from the collection and delivery of donated food to serving hot meals to hungry families. Those who are interested in volunteering can visit thefoodbank.ca for more information. Students may find the experience so rewarding that they become regular volunteers.

It is also important to remember that some members of the community aren't in need of material goods, but friendship. The holidays can be a particularly sad and lonely time, so consider offering your companionship to residents in local senior centres. Information is available by calling Kitchener's co-ordinator of volunteers at 519-741-2564.

Instead of hibernating this season, spread glad tidings. Your contributions will not only bring a smile to those who need one most, but might just rejuvenate your own holiday cheer. It's a priceless gift that keeps on giving.



Spend time with your children

Any parent who has ever had a bit of suspicion that their child could be addicted to playing video games can probably assume that they are not spending enough quality time with their kids.

According to the National Institute of Media and the Family, 92 per cent of children in America, ages 2-17, play video games. Does this not seem like an extremely high percentage? When I was a kid – 15 years ago – we had a Nintendo, but the three of us (my brother, sister and I) would have much rather played outside until bedtime (no matter the season) than sit in front of the television.

Ninety-two per cent of children in America, ages 2-17, play video games.

My mom was a stay-at-home mom, so we were never in daycare or with babysitters. Though these days the babysitter seems to be the Xbox 360 and Play Station 3. Are parents these days really too busy to play with their kids, whether it be a board game or outside in the yard? If this is true, it is very sad. Far too many children go directly to daycare from



Laura Rouse

Opinion

school, stay there until six or seven o'clock, then when they get home it's dinner, homework (or video games) and bedtime. When do kids get to spend quality time with their parents? Sadly, it seems like they don't.

So, as an apology for not being around and working too much, parents are buying their kids these video game consoles that are worth hundreds of dollars. It doesn't seem to make much sense. And not only that, they are also buying the addicting games to go along with the consoles, many of which are rated M for mature.

Kids have no business playing video games involving killing (even if it is brain-eating zombies), shooting guns or driving cars uncontrollably. If kids are playing video games at all, the games should be educational and should teach them something.

Unfortunately, the games for the Xbox 360 are mostly geared toward teens and adults, and have little to no educational value. Unless you want to learn how to kill zombies or shoot aliens, you aren't learning anything.

And they are addicting, for kids and adults. I know of

people who called in sick to work for days when the new Grand Theft Auto game came out earlier this year, and didn't leave their houses until they finished the game. If that's not considered being addicted, I don't know what is.

Kids have no business playing video games involving killing, shooting guns or driving uncontrollably

If a child must play video games (and this should never really be the case) their time should be limited, such as one hour per day, and only after their homework is done. Even better, they should only be allowed to play video games on the weekends, leaving plenty of time on school nights for homework, playing outside with friends and quality family time.

By allowing kids to play video games as often as they want, they are being deprived of normal childhood things, and along with this they are sleep-deprived and have the possibility of doing poorly in school.

They are also learning, far too young, that feeling of being addicted to something, even if they don't know it.

Letters are welcome

Spoke welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be signed and include the name and telephone number of the writer. Writers will be contacted for verification. No unsigned letters will be published. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. Spoke reserves the right to edit any letter for publication. Address correspondence to: The Editor, Spoke, 299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 1C29, Kitchener, Ont., N2G 4M4



SPOKE

IS PUBLISHED AND PRODUCED WEEKLY BY THE JOURNALISM STUDENTS OF CONESTOGA COLLEGE

Editor: Neil McDonald

Advertising Managers: Adam Russell, Sarah Bongers

Spoke Online Editor: Patrick Lansbergen, David Smith

Production Managers: Liz Koenig, Christie Lagrotta, Stacie Ritchie, Sarah Boychuk, Jessica O'Donnell

Circulation Manager: Louise Kaddour

Photo Editors: Heather Muir, Laura Rouse, Kaitlyn

Heard, Lacie Groffen, Blair Pollock, Jamie Reansbury, Mandi Cartwright, Kevin O'Brien

Faculty Supervisor and Adviser: Christina Jonas

Spoke's address is 299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 1C29,

Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4.

Phone: 519-748-5220, ext. 3691, 3692, 3693, 3694
Fax: 519-748-3534

E-mail: spoke@conestogac.on.ca

Website: www.conestogac.on.ca/spoke

CONESTOGA
STUDENTS INC

Christmas Wish Tree

Make a Child's Christmas Wish Come True!

*Come visit the CSI office in room 2A106
to get a CHILDS WISH CARD. On it
you'll find their Christmas gift
wish that you can purchase
and return to the CSI office.
For children 12 and under only.*

*For more information
visit the CSI office
in Room 2A106*

*November 3rd till
December 5th*

Lets make a difference together

SOCIAL MARKET PLACE

CONESTOGA
STUDENTS INC

NOVEMBER 25TH, 2008

EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS AT
CSI'S SOCIAL MARKET PLACE.

FEATURING GREAT VENDORS SUCH AS:
10,000 VILLAGES, WWF, OXFAM, FOODLINK AND
STUDENT SHOWCASES.

STUDENT LIFE CENTRE
10:00AM - 4:00PM



CSI
Idol

FINALS

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27TH - SANCTUARY AT 12:00 NOON

Samples and stage invasions

By KEVIN O'BRIEN

I'm hesitant to ask Gregg Gillis my next question.

We've been chatting amiably about the music he makes under the name Girl Talk, but I'm a little worried that my next query, one he's been asked repeatedly by the New York Times, Spin Magazine and countless other weeklies and monthlies, could end the niceties.

Phrasing the question as sympathetically as possible, I ask if he's sick of reading about the legality of his music.

"I'm definitely a little tired of it," Gillis explains, calling from a tour stop in Cleveland, Ohio. "It's my fourth album now, I've been playing as many shows as possible, it's been exposed to the mainstream media and there have been no problems. I almost feel as if I'm letting journalists down when they ask, 'have you been sued?' and the answer's, 'no.'"

Gillis tends to be asked more legally-related questions than the average pre-law professor because the music he makes, using only a laptop computer, is completely comprised of uncensored samples from other artists' songs. Because of this, many journalists and music fans have questioned whether Gillis should be taken to task (or court) for liberally borrowing from copyrighted work. Gillis believes that his work is protected under U.S. fair use copyright law, which, in summary, states that it's legal to use other people's work as long as it doesn't infringe on the artists' sales.

"I completely understand (the interest)," Gillis says. "I just think that there are a lot more interesting things existing in this project."

In any case, one thing is for certain; Girl Talk, a project he created while studying biomedical engineering in his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pa., is nothing if not interesting.

Gillis had released two Girl Talk albums (2002's *Secret Diary* and 2004's *Unstoppable*) before his 2006 record, *Night Ripper*, unexpectedly gained the attention of the mainstream media after a near-perfect review by taste-making website pitchforkmedia.com. His audience grew exponentially, leading to larger scale shows and longer tours.

The unique way Gillis chops and rearranges familiar songs, often matching unlikely artists to create a new sound, was undeniably a huge part of *Night Ripper*'s success. Over the album's 40 minutes, Gillis meshed pieces of tracks by artists as disparate as Public Enemy, Phil Collins, Hall & Oates, Nirvana, Young Jeezy and Missy Elliott, resulting in a reinvention Gillis says was inspired by his favourite '80s- and '90s-era rap records.

He cites Jay-Z's 1998 hit



PHOTO BY KEVIN O'BRIEN

Gregg Gillis, a.k.a. Girl Talk, plots his next sample in front of a sold-out crowd of almost 2,000 fans at the Kool Haus in Toronto, Nov. 12.

Hard Knock Life (Ghetto Anthem), which blended a tale of street life with a sample from the musical *Annie*, as an example.

"He took that *Annie* jam somewhere completely different – the lyrics from that song over any other beat would have had a completely different feel," Gillis says. "I miss that level of music, where people were re-contextualizing really blatant samples. You don't hear it in mainstream hip-hop as much as you used to. When I'm setting out to do a track, it's almost paying homage to those days of rap records."

Now, with the CD release of his fourth album, *Feed the Animals*, (it was available in a pay-what-you-want download format months ago) and at the end of his largest-scale tour to date, Gillis says that, while content with the degree of fame he's achieved, he's not opposed to further success.

"It's a lot bigger than I ever anticipated, but that's really cool to me – very exciting. This tour has been a good example of how the venues don't necessarily have to be that intimate to have a good show. The bigger shows just turn into a massive celebration, so as big as this could go, I'm down with it – I'd love to play stadiums if it got to that point."

Stadiums seem possible now that Girl Talk live shows have become legendary, falling somewhere between a DJ set at a large-scale club and a full-blown, all-inclusive, punk rock riot.

At his Nov. 12 show at the 2,000-capacity Kool Haus in Toronto, hundreds of dancing fans fill the stage, side-by-side with Gillis, who alternates between constructing his

tracks on-the-fly with his laptop and dancing along with the audience. The stage invasions have become de rigueur at the shows, sometimes posing problems for the venue. Six nights earlier, in Nashville, Tenn., there was a minor disaster when a few too many fans crowded the stage.

"A small segment of (the stage) started to cave-in a little bit," Gillis says. "The place was built kind of strangely – there was a water main underneath the stage, so when that went down it actually broke a water pipe. So, there was a little bit of water squirting in the air – that made it a bit more dramatic than it actually was."

The Kool Haus does a sort of pre-emptive strike, having security staff lead a limited number of ecstatic fans on stage in order to avoid a scene like the one in Nashville. According to Gillis, having fans onstage with him is a necessary part of the show.

"I like it to be fairly raw, I don't like there to be too many rules involved. I like people to just be able to get up there and get down," he says.

He spends much of the hour-plus set hunched over his laptop, twisting his existing songs with samples from more recent hits. While it's not all improvised, Gillis says he never plays an identical set.

"I'll know that the beat from Song A mixes well with the melody from Song B, which mixes well with the vocals from Song C, but, literally, every five seconds is triggering a sample, so even if I wanted to go through the same exact material in the same identical way, it's impossible," he says, describing his live method. "If I feel like I nailed something one

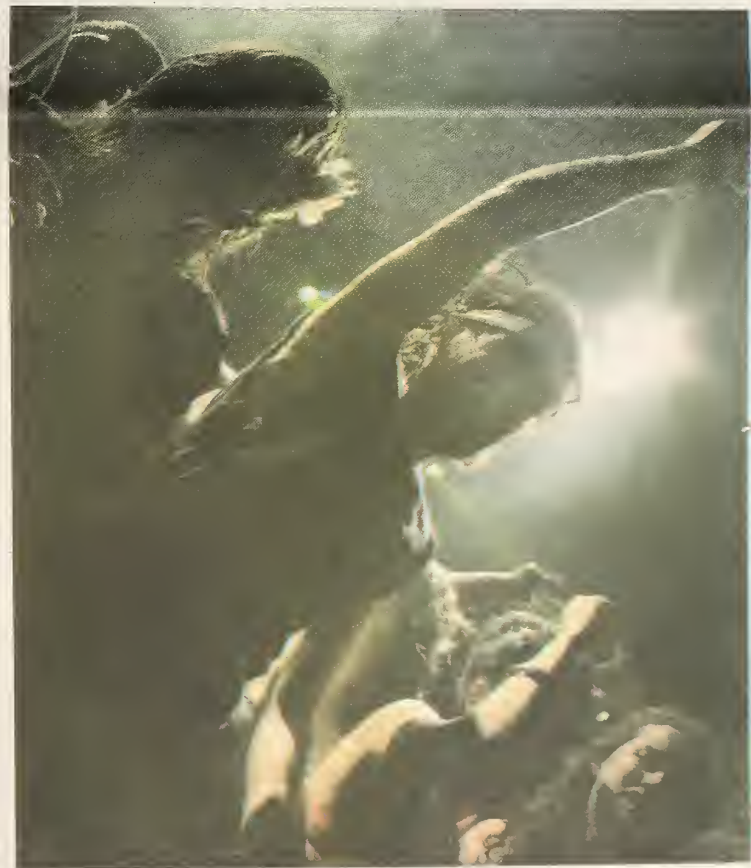


PHOTO BY KEVIN O'BRIEN

Gillis dances with the assembled audience onstage in Toronto.

night, and it works really well, I'll start doing that every night."

Before a brief encore in Toronto, he hesitantly addresses the audience regarding an article he's read implying that he doesn't practise what he preaches.

"This might be too heavy," he says, dripping sweat and perched on the table next to his laptop. "But this (writer) said that I've copyrighted my music so no one else can use it. He's wrong – any of you can take my CD, remix the hell out of it and sell it!"

Two days earlier, Gillis

expressed a resigned frustration when discussing the lack of credit some writers give to sample-based music.

"They don't really focus on the fact that this is a legitimate art form," he said. "It's not like I'm creating this music to create controversy. I'm creating this music because some of my favourite artists do this style of music – Negativland, the KLF, John Oswald, Public Enemy, De La Soul. I think when (people) focus so heavily on the copyright aspect, it does ignore the whole musical thing and (the fact) that there's a whole world of music like this."

Guelph campus adds new programs

BY HEATHER MUIR

Conestoga's Guelph campus is booming with excitement about two new programs – truck trailer service technician and brick and stone mason – which will be starting in the new year.

"These are programs funded by the Government of Ontario, and they are tuition-free to students who are interested in taking the programs and getting into an apprenticeship," said Brenda Gilmore, program

manager of trades and apprenticeship.

With these new programs you don't necessarily have to have a high school diploma to be accepted into the program. Anyone 16 years of age and over coming from any background is welcome to apply.

"We only take about 24 students out of the hundred that may apply in each program," said Gilmore. "There is a process of interviews that we go through and an assessment test, to see where the

person stands to enter the program."

Students will be assessed in English, mathematics and mechanical aptitude.

The truck and trailer service technician program runs for 23 weeks with an eight-week work placement. The brick and stone mason program runs for 25 weeks with an eight-week work placement.

The truck and trailer service technician program will run out of the Guelph campus, and

the brick and stone mason will operate out of the new masonry centre at the Waterloo campus.

"Students who apply for the program won't have an apprenticeship yet, but once they get into the program, local companies around the area will take them on to work in their shops, which is a good thing," said Roger Gibbons, co-ordinator and professor in the truck and trailer service technician program.

Other apprenticeship programs at Conestoga have many success stories. Past students are always coming back to share their achievements with their professors.

"Out of 24 students in an apprenticeship program last year, 23 graduated and 23 are working," added Gibbons.

Information sessions will be held at both the Guelph and Waterloo campuses. For more information contact Brenda Gilmore at bgilmore@conestogac.on.ca

FOREVER WE WILL REMEMBER AND BE THANKFUL



PHOTO BY JAMIE REANSBURY

On the 11th day, of the 11th month, at the 11th hour Conestoga participated in a moment of silence to commemorate the sacrifices of members of the armed forces and of civilians in times of war.

CSA shapes college experience

By SARAH BOYCHUK

The decisions they make shape your college experience, and yet most students don't know they exist.

The College Student Alliance (CSA) represents over 109,000 full-time students in 16 colleges and 23 student associations across Ontario, and counts Conestoga College among its members. The board of directors, which is under the leadership of president Jenn Howarth of Cambrian College, is composed of college students from across the province. Among this diverse group of schools, Conestoga is "looked highly on by CSA," says CSI board member Christopher Carson.

The organization's mission statement is "strong students; strong leadership; strong colleges." Members sit on nearly every government committee and task force relating to post-secondary education in Ontario. The alliance operates as an advocate for colleges and their

students, working at a provincial level to influence government decisions on issues such as college funding, tuition fees and accessibility of education.

Full-time students of Conestoga support the college's CSA membership through their student fees. Carson considers it to be well worth it.

Carson, who is also a member of the CSA Posse committee which distributes information about the organization, describes the CSA and its member colleges as "such a great organization," and compares the relationship between members to the close ties shared by a family.

CSI president Sheena Sonser and CSI director Matt Lukas also hold positions on CSA subcommittees, with Sonser taking part in the brand committee and Lukas, the policy committee.

Their posts are determined through CSI board consensus, yet all members of CSI remain invested in the organization.

"(CSA) makes us a better organization," said Carson.

LEARNING WORKSHOPS FOR FALL 2008

Topic	Dates	Time	Location
Test-taking	Monday December 1	3:00 p.m.	2E23
	Wednesday December 3	1:00 p.m.	1D04
	Friday December 5	10:00 a.m.	2D22
Memory and studying	Tuesday December 2	10:00 a.m.	2A210
	Thursday December 4	10:00 a.m.	2A622

Please call or drop by the Learning Commons (2A103) to sign-up!

the learning commons

Peer Services Learning Skills Service Writing Service

WHO IS THIS MAN ON THE WALL?

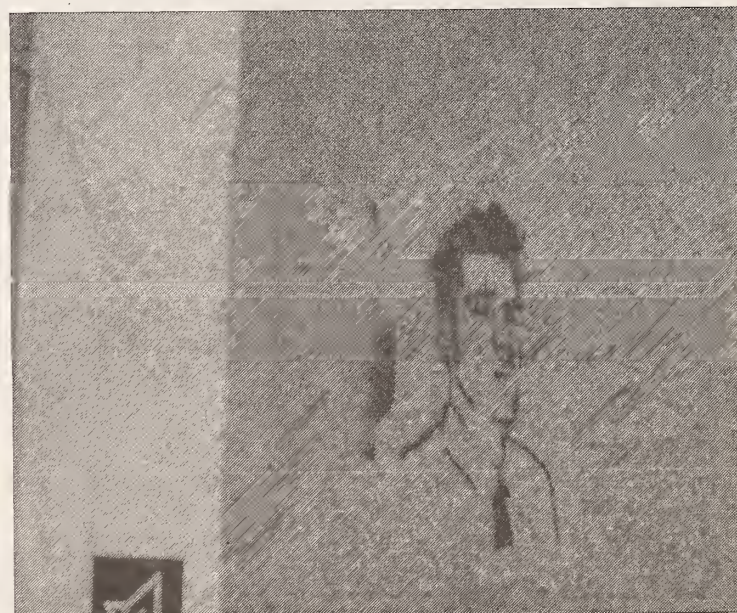


PHOTO BY KEVIN O'BRIEN

This finely dressed gentleman has been sprayed on the side of various buildings across uptown Waterloo. Stencilled graffiti seems to be ubiquitous in our cities with sprayed images of video game characters becoming more popular.

Ontario's birds disappearing

BY HEATHER MUIR

Ontario is home to about 300 bird species. Most people think the most common birds are the robin, the blackbird and the crow. But that's not the case.

"It's not the birds that people probably think of, the species that are most common are the ones that nest in Ontario's boreal forest far north," said Gregor Beck, a wildlife biologist and co-editor of the new Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario.

Some of the most common species are the national war-

bler and yellow-rumped warbler, which are insect-eating birds. There is also the junco and white-throated sparrows.

To track the hundreds of bird species, a bird count was held. More than 3,000 people were involved in the provincewide count for 2008 that helped create the new Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario. Anyone can help out during the bird count, and there is also the annual Christmas bird count, which will be held in Kitchener on Dec. 20. For more information, contact Mike Burell at michofski@hotmail.com.

Bird species that were shown to be in decline after the count was done included native grassland birds such as log-

"

In southern Ontario we're losing this native grassland habitat because more land is being converted for urban development.

— Gregor Beck

"

gerhead shrike, upland sandpiper and the meadow lark.

Beck said the reason for the decline is simple. "In southern Ontario we're losing this native grassland habitat because more land is being converted for urban development," he said. "Even farmland that is being converted into state housing has an impact on the native grasslands."

Another group of birds that are in serious decline are birds that eat flying insects, such as swallows, fly catchers, whip-poorwills and nighthawks.

"This whole large group of birds that eat flying insects are in serious decline, actually

very serious decline," said Beck. "Some of them are now listed as species at risk, provincially and nationally."

This shows that the insect population may be declining. This means there is more than one thing causing declining bird species.

To help stop the decline of bird species, we need to help protect our native grassland habitat. And, maintaining your own property and putting up bird feeders to draw them in will encourage the birds to nest.

For more information go to www.ontarionature.org

FIRST SNOWFALL SEES FIRST VICTIMS

PHOTO BY DAVID SMITH

Traffic was temporarily backed up along Conestoga Boulevard on the morning of Nov. 17 after a Conestoga student lost control of his vehicle, taking out a portion of the fence. Sunday night's snowfall caused a few fender-benders across the region.



CLASSIFIED

SUMMER OF YOUR LIFE! CAMP WAYNE FOR GIRLS – Children's sleep-away camp, Northeast Pennsylvania (6/20-8/16/09). If you love children and want a caring, fun environment we need Counsellors and Program Directors for: Tennis, Swimming, Golf, Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Drama, Ropes Course, Camping/Nature, Team Sports, Waterskiing, Sailing, Painting/Drawing, Ceramics, Silkscreen, Printmaking, Batik, Jewelry, Calligraphy, Photography, Sculpture, Guitar, Aerobics, Self-Defense, Video, Piano. Other staff: Administrative, CDL Driver (21+), Nurses (RNs and Nursing Students), Bookkeeper, Nanny. On campus Interviews January 28th. Select The Camp That Selects The Best Staff! Call 1-215-944-3069 or apply online at www.campwaynegirls.com

IN BRIEF

Future Condors to land at Conestoga

Prospective students and their parents will have the opportunity to meet and talk with Conestoga faculty and students during a college open house on Saturday, Nov. 29.

The event, held between 1 and 3 p.m. at the Conestoga recreation centre, will focus on full-time programs, as well as provide info on services available to students at the college.

The activity is part of the School/College Work Initiative, which is a partnership of the Waterloo Region District School Board, Waterloo Catholic School Board, Upper Grand District School Board, Wellington Catholic School Board, Avon Maitland School Board and Conestoga College.

WIN COLLEGE TUITION²

Player, iPod Touch
HMV Gift Certificates.

It's easy! Just visit:
wincollegetuition.com

All full & part-time
day students have a
chance to WIN \$1000.
Additional prizes
include: Sony PSP

ontario college student engagement survey: part two

CLICK TO WIN
wincollegetuition.com

Last Call - For Tutoring!

The deadline date to request a tutor for
Fall term courses is fast approaching:

Monday December 1st is the deadline -
Tutors will not be assigned after this date

To request a peer tutor, visit our website:

www.conestogac.on.ca/learningcommons/peerservices/disclaimer.jsp



the learning commons

Peer Services Learning Skills Service Writing Service

Students Helping Students
- It Works!!!!

HOROSCOPE

Week of November 24, 2008



Aries

March 21 - April 19

* You're in good spirits, thanks to some positive energy going through you right now. You should be able to get quite a lot done, even if those around you aren't quite able to keep up.



Libra

September 23 - October 22

You're more in touch with your desires right now and should be able to articulate them in a way that makes sense to friends, family and co-workers. It's a good week to make plans.



Taurus

April 20 - May 20

You've got a lot to be proud of, but this week, it's better to be quiet about it. People are looking for humility and are too eager to start teasing anyone who seems boastful.



Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

School can be problematic for you this week, especially if you have to interact with teachers in depth. People are playing power games on different levels and you just want out.



Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Some big ideas are up for discussion right now and you're having lots of fun debating their delicate points. It's not a good week to settle anything for good, though.



Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

Your generosity is amazing this week and your great energy makes you even more giving than usual! There's no need to worry about what you're giving away, as you can count on getting what you need yourself.



Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Spend a little more than you think you have to this week, there's nothing wrong with a little extravagance now and then. You set yourself up for even better things to come in the future.



Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

Don't worry too much about what's going on around you this week. It's not easy, but it's not signalling more trouble on the horizon, either. As long as you deal with it to the best of your ability, it should be a wash.



Leo

July 23 - August 22

It's the best possible week for you to try and attract attention; it should come to you with very little effort on your part. You might get as much buzz as a major celebrity at some point.



Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

You pull away from a social entanglement that hasn't been working out for you and find that your independence is wonderful. It's a good week for you to explore new options and broaden your horizons.



Virgo

August 23 - September 22

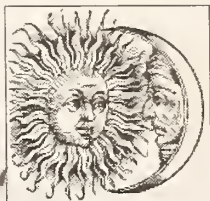
You don't mind being the underdog as long as it doesn't last forever. You may get frustrated, but part of you knows that you've got a lot of good energy coming in the near future.



Pisces

February 19 - March 20

If you can stay on track this week, you can get an amazing amount of work or chores done but it's not easy. Your mind is prone to wandering and interruptions seem to come at a steady pace for you.



Louise Kaddour is a second-year journalism student holding fate in the palm of her hand:

Bond is back and angry

By STACIE RITCHIE

The name's Bond, James Bond, and he's back with a vengeance in *Quantum of Solace*.

The movie, which opened in theatres Nov. 14 and is the sequel to 2006's *Casino Royale*, once again has Daniel Craig as Mr. Bond and a series of action-packed sequences typical of a Bond film.

It starts off where the previous film ended after Vesper (his love interest) drowned and Bond shot Mr. White (Jesper Christensen) in the leg, put him in the trunk of his car and drove away. Bond, full of anger and rage, takes Mr. White to a remote location where he meets up with M (Judi Dench) and a few other agents to question White about the secret organization he's part of. Then, in no time at all, bullets are fired and a huge car chase breaks out with Bond exchanging fire with the bad guys.

Throughout the duration of the film, Bond's anger and focus for revenge is eminent and it has him going all over the place chasing, firing bullets and throwing punches with help from some old friends, not to mention the ladies.

Movie Review



This time around, Bond falls for a woman (Gemma Arterton) who works for the British embassy and has orders to bring him in. He also meets another woman (Olga Kurylenko) during his chase who wants to get revenge on the same people Bond does.

But although this Bond film has a lot of the usual exciting action and a love interest, and Craig does a superb job portraying Bond in his anger and revengeful state, it's lacking in some areas.

For instance, the title of the film, *Quantum of Solace*, is not thoroughly explained in the movie so its meaning is unclear.

A second thing lacking in this Bond film compared to the others is more of a storyline. It is focused on Bond getting his revenge for Vesper's death, with a minor romance, and nothing else. It feels like there is something missing or more needs to be added to the story.



INTERNET PHOTO

Daniel Craig stars as James Bond once again, this time in *Quantum of Solace*, which opened on Nov. 14.

Despite the lacking storyline and explanation of the film's title, it is still a must-see film this year because let's face it, it is James Bond after all.

I give this film four stars out of five.

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF STROKE WHEN YOU SEE THEM.

✓ VISION PROBLEMS

Sudden loss of vision, particularly in one eye or double vision

✓ HEADACHES

Sudden, severe and unusual headaches

✓ WEAKNESS

Sudden weakness, numbness and/or tingling in the face, arm or leg

✓ TROUBLE SPEAKING

Temporary loss of speech or trouble understanding speech

✓ DIZZINESS

Unsteadiness or sudden falls, especially with any of the above signs



Seek immediate medical attention if you have any of these symptoms.



NEED EXTRA \$\$\$ FOR PRESENTS OR PARTYING?

LIBRARY FINES

will be CANCELLED

on all OVERDUE ITEMS

returned

NOVEMBER 24 to 28

COME IN AND SEE US AT THE LRC CIRCULATION DESK

Many happy returns !!

(Outstanding replacement charges for long overdue or lost items are not included.)

Why Mr. Bettman, why?

By ADAM RUSSELL

Why won't Gary Bettman allow an NHL franchise in southern Ontario?

The commissioner of the league, who is supposed to have the best interests of the NHL in mind, has no intention of relocating one of the struggling southern U.S. hockey franchises anytime soon.

I must ask him, why?

Why Mr. Bettman, will you not allow Canada, a nation that "eats and breathes" hockey, the chance to house another NHL team?

The Florida Panthers and Atlanta Thrashers have poor attendance averages, yet somehow Bettman and his puppets believe things will change. He doesn't understand that hockey is an afterthought in the southern U.S. where college sports such as basketball and football draw in the largest audiences and always have. The teams in these states have actually been forced to give tickets away just to get people to come. If Bettman were to relocate one of these struggling franchises to a hockey hotbed such as southern Ontario, he could expect sold-out arenas every game, with attendance reaching 19,000 easily. There would be no need

to give tickets away, they would all easily sell, and with the revenue sharing under the collective bargaining agreement the NHL would be financially stronger.

Another fact to consider is that we have a perfectly good owner-to-be in the waiting with Research in Motion co-CEO Jim Balsillie. Balsillie has repeatedly expressed interest in purchasing an NHL team, namely Nashville and Pittsburgh, yet for some reason Bettman has blocked any attempts he has made. This makes almost no business sense. Balsillie is quite capable of buying a team outright, not needing any loans or financial backing of any kind. He could purchase the team by himself and not have the need to sell off any shares. Bettman is an idiot. Many of the teams in the U.S. need to have multiple business owners because one person can't afford to own the team on his own. The teams just struggle too much financially.

Many "experts" in the NHL have said that putting a team in southern Ontario will take away from the Buffalo Sabres. The Sabres' season ticket fan base is only 15 to 17 per cent Canadian. If the NHL actually believes that putting a team in

the tri-cities or Hamilton would really affect the team in Buffalo, then maybe there shouldn't be a team there either. If American cities can't successfully support a pro-hockey franchise because of lack of interest, then in my opinion they shouldn't have one.

It is ridiculous that Bettman still manages to keep his job after everything negative he has done for the league. It was only a few short years ago he shut down the NHL for an entire year forcing me into watching Rock'em sock'em videos for my Don Cherry fix, to bring cost certainty, sustainable profits and lower ticket prices. However, teams in the U.S. have had to raise ticket prices in order to pay for their surprisingly large payrolls. That wasn't supposed to happen in the "new" NHL under Bettman's guidance. Having high ticket prices in markets that don't do well makes it tough to bring fans to the games.

Maybe it is time I changed the question from why it is you won't grant southern Ontario a second NHL franchise Mr. Bettman, to how in the world do you still have your job?

It's life in the fast lane

By JAMIE REANSBURY

Life in school can sometimes feel like hell on earth.

You live in residence though, so the walk home only takes 10 minutes. You approach Homer Watson Boulevard with sleep and relaxation on your mind, and are not paying attention to the traffic. When the walking man appears on the sign you don't question whether it's safe to cross. Unfortunately, this is the day that the driver of that white van decides to question the meaning of a red light.

When you step onto the road all you see are the white headlights, then nothing.

I would continue my narration, but you would more than likely be dead.

Fortunately, this is just a hypothetical situation that I have concocted. However, that does not make it any less terrifying.

Every day, hundreds of Conestoga students and other

pedestrians cross Homer Watson, and every day drivers can be seen speeding or not paying attention.

With the 401 ramps just down the road, some drivers do not feel the need to slow down at all, and simply wiz through the intersection.

Speed has contributed to numerous accidents in this area, one of the most recent being the six-car collision this September. Other incidences have included a tour bus that came off the highway at full speed, went three feet into a parallel lane and nearly ran a GMC Suburban off the road.

To me this poses a question of how safe are pedestrian crossers, especially with the snow flying.

Unfortunately, pedestrians can only use vigilance to help them cross safely. One day, however, it may not be enough to stop a tragedy from happening.

Counsellor's Corner - Cutting/Self-Harm

Expressing hurt can come in many forms. Sometimes we deal with painful feelings by having someone to talk to whom we feel we can trust. However, other times we may become withdrawn, thinking that no one is available to listen, and no one will help anyway. Or maybe we lash out angrily- shouting or hitting because we feel out of control. Using alcohol or drugs can be a way of coping for a while, but usually the hangover continues and the bad feelings are still there.

For some people, cutting or self-harm has become a way to cope with feelings (usually emotional pain and anger) they can't seem to express. It can also feel like a way of staying in control. Some say it brings a release, ending the emotional pain by providing physical feeling and even evidence that they exist. Cutting does the talking. People who self-harm usually say they do not wish to die, just to feel.

The reasons people self-harm are numerous and individual, as are the methods used. Perhaps someone has experienced a form of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse; bullying in school for being 'different'; depression; parents' separation or divorce; a significant loss; strict family rules; or generally feeling misunderstood and unable to talk about what was going on. Or sometimes people really don't know why they are doing this – just that it is taking its toll on their body and not really ending the pain. The consequences aren't worth it. Cutting and self-harm usually brings negative attention in relationships, scars that don't fade, the need to wear excessive clothing, and energy spent in keeping this a secret or trying to stop.

If you or someone you know wants to talk about cutting or self-harm, professional counsellors are available to listen in Counselling Services. The college's Learning Resource Centre also has various resources (books, articles, videos) on cutting and self-harm, and resources are available in the community. Our counselling services are free, voluntary, and confidential.

A Message from Counselling Services, 1A101

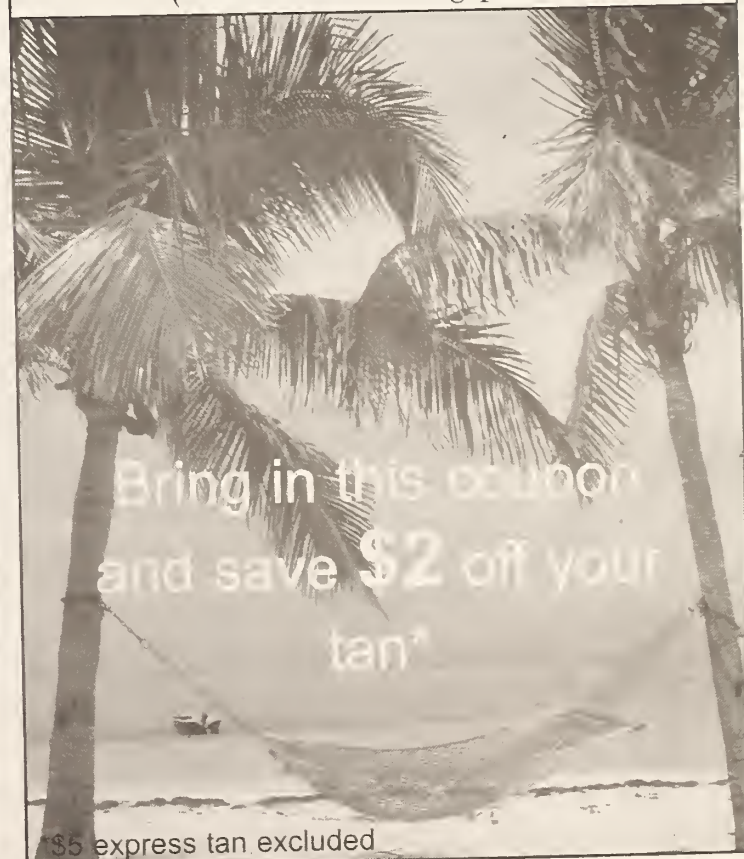
Now Open!

MIDNIGHT SUN
Tanning Studio

- ✓ No membership fee
- ✓ Walk-ins & appointments
- ✓ Open 7 days a week
- ✓ Weeknights til 9:30pm
- ✓ 4 levels of tanning
- ✓ \$5 express tan - all day - every day
- ✓ Vitamin D naturally

519-623-TANS

525 Hespeler Road, Cambridge
(Beaver & Bulldog plaza)



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS



PHOTO BY CHRISTIE LAGROTTA

Even though it's only November, consumers already have Christmas fever. Retail stores have begun marking down the prices on various Christmas decorations.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIE LAGROTTA

Michael's has a variety of different options for decorations and styles of Christmas trees. This year, various colours are decking the halls including gold, silver, red, green and even turquoise.



PHOTO BY KAITLYN HEARD

Broadcasting across North America as far as New Zealand, Norway and Ireland, the Toronto Santa Claus Parade raises approximately \$100,000 each year for various charities. The 98. FM float displayed penguins playing in a band. Although the weather was not perfect, spectators still had the energy to cheer on the float and the children on board.



PHOTO BY SARAH BOYCHUK

Winter came early to Waterloo Region. Residents awoke Nov. 17 to find everything blanketed in thick, white snow.



PHOTO BY NEIL MCDONALD

Gregg Blackler, an employee at Pook Toque, pulls one on at the ArtWorks show at Bingemans Nov. 2. Winter is coming, so students looking for some warm winter wear should check out www.pook-toque.com